

WATCH-NIGHT SERVICES.

COMING YEAR TO BE WELCOMED WITH PRAYER AND PRAISE.

A beautiful Old Custom to be Observed in Many Churches To-Night of Different Denominations.

In pursuance of a time-honored and beautiful custom, many of the churches of this city will to-night hold "watch-night services" with prayer and songs of praise greet the dawn of the new year.

The custom is more generally observed among the Methodists than any other denomination, and most of the churches of this faith welcome the opening year.

AT CENTENARY.

At Centenary church, services will begin at 8 o'clock and for an hour, special exercises will be held under the auspices of the Epworth League. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will then be administered, after which there will be prayer and praise services until the bells strike the hour of midnight, announcing that the world has entered upon the ninety-seventh year of the century.

At Broad-Street and Union Station Methodist churches similar services will be observed.

AT THE FIRST BAPTIST.

The new year will be welcomed by watch-night services at the First Baptist church, beginning at 11 o'clock and closing as soon as the bells of the churches and city have rung in the new year. This service has always been largely attended, and has proved to many the beginning of a new life. Dr. Cooper will conduct the service.

To-morrow night the Young People's Union of the same church will give a New Year's party, to which all friends and members. They will keep open house from 8 to 11 o'clock and will entertain with music, recitations, and other attractive features.

Other congregations will also gather in their houses of worship, and spend the last moments of the expiring year in praise and thanksgiving.

YOUNG FORGER ARRESTED.

By Request of His Mother He Was Sent to the Reformatory.

For some days past several merchants, including Miller & Rhoads and Alexander West, this city, have been worried with worthless checks, bearing the signature of one of the officers of the Masonic Home. These checks were not for large amounts, but were presented by a boy named Smith, of about fifteen years of age, an intelligent and honest-looking young man.

The theft of a bicycle lamp, reported by the Temple Bicycle Company, has also been traced to the boy, and the case was placed in the hands of the police. From the description given, the detective's suspicions rested on the boy Smith, who lives on Nineteenth street, who has been giving his mother lots of trouble.

Yesterday Sergeant Gibson arrested the suspected boy, and carried him to headquarters, where he confessed to some of his wrong doing.

The boy's mother was sent for and when she reached headquarters, she burst into tears and wrung her hands and begged her son to forgive him, and not to leave him.

She could do nothing, however, but consent to his being sent to the Reformatory, where he was taken by Sergeant Thomas yesterday afternoon.

The boy was a student at the High school, and was considered unusually bright. He is the only child and his father is dead.

MANY COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Officers of the Municipal Government Held at Work.

The Water Committee met at 7:30 last night in room, No. 12, of the City Hall. Chairman Briggs in the chair, and the following members present: Messrs. Tanner, Montgomery, Stokes, Lawder, Cutchin, and C. R. Noble.

On motion of Mr. Tanner, the Superintendent of the Water Department to-day was \$1,000.00.

On motion of Mr. Tanner, the Superintendent of the Fire Department for a plug on Seventeenth street was granted. Applications for plugs in other quarters were rejected.

On motion of Mr. Tanner, the Superintendent of the Police Department to-day was \$1,000.00.

The Committee on Second Market met at 8 o'clock and transacted routine business.

Those present were Messrs. Hobson (chairman), Brock, and Witte.

The Committee on Police met at 6 o'clock, the members present being Messrs. Starks (chairman), Lawder, and Blanks.

Bills amounting to \$5,000 and \$10,000 were introduced and read.

Some minor matters were attended to, and the committee adjourned.

The School Committee met at 6:30 o'clock, with Messrs. Burton, (chairman), John M. Krouse, Irving Lawler, and Neale, present. Only routine work was done.

The Board of Aldermen will meet at 8 o'clock to-night to consider amendments to the ordinance regulating the sale of delinquent land.

The Committee on Health will meet at 11 o'clock this morning in the office of the Board of Health.

HELD UP IN THE STREETS.

Mr. Byron Harlan, a New Comer Here, Is Stopped and Robbed.

Mr. Byron Harlan is a new comer to Richmond. He is engaged in the advertising business for a New York firm in Richmond.

Successfully wending his way home to the St. Claire Hotel on Sunday evening he was confronted by three villainous-looking men in Eighteenth street, near Broad street, who surrounded him, and in a popular parlance, "held him up," or, as feuding romancers would have said, "bado him stand and deliver."

Mr. Harlan surrendered \$2. Satisfied that they had all that was of value on or about his person, these robbers disappeared and Mr. Harlan went home a shivering and somewhat debilitated man, and told his troubles to the hotel people, and afterwards to the police.

This matter of holding people up is getting to be a serious thing in Richmond, and while but few of the cases ever get into print or even to the ears of the police, it is not an infrequent thing for a man on the streets after dark to be asked for his funds in a threatening and somewhat menacing manner, and often at the point of a pistol.

One night last week two men poked a pistol into the face of a well-known citizen, on the corner of Seventh and Main streets, and when he handed out a silver dollar they asked no further questions but took it and departed.

The police are keeping a sharp lookout for these tramps and garters for a view of bringing such business to a summary close.

There is a rumor operating between Ninth and Third and Main and Broad streets lately are white men, young, and apparently abundantly able to do some work for the city.

BURGLAR CAUGHT.

He Entered the Residence of Mr. G. McD. Blake Tuesday Night.

Tuesday night between the hours of 7 and 10 o'clock some one entered the residence of Mr. G. McD. Blake and stole a lot of clothing and toilet articles from a bedroom. The thief entered the house through a window in the rear of the premises.

A man giving his name as W. H. Kerney was noticed by several young men to be loitering in a suspicious manner in the neighborhood of the residence of Mr. Blake. They watched him and saw him enter and come out of the house with a

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The Rev. R. B. Boatwright, the pastor of the church, performed the ceremony of marriage in a most impressive style, while the church was profusely decorated with holly, cedar, and evergreens as especially suited to the season of Christmas, and with flowers, potted plants, ferns and palms besides.

THE BRIDE. The bride-elect entered the church with her maid-of-honor, Miss Virginia L. Sue, and was met at the marriage altar by Mr. W. A. Chesterman, her bridegroom.

Mr. W. A. Chesterman, of Richmond, was very beautifully attired in a white satin gown, on train and chiffon.

Her veil was held up with bunches of orange blossoms, and she wore a large bouquet of bride's roses.

The dress of her maid of honor was of white organdy, and she carried a bouquet of L. Franchino flowers.

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